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## Sunday Services

**April 4** Sylvia Hale *Eternal Life a New Vision* by Bishop Spong

**April 11** *Habitat for Humanity*

**April 18** The Reverend Mary Tingley from Nashwaaksis

**April 25** TBA



## A Winter Rose

Come share a ride with me,  
That I may know your mind;  
And I'll string a tale with you,  
When truth is hard to find.  
I will share a voice with you,  
And a rose in the wintertime.\*



One never knows what will happen when once accepts a ride from a pair of strangers.

Camellias are sub-tropical flowering shrubs of the tea family that bloom from November to March. The plants originated in Asia. Green tea is derived from some varieties

but, in the Carolinas, the Japanese varieties are renowned for their blooms.

The flowers have no smell, but they are a fascinating discovery for a northerner on a cold winter day. Like roses, they are generally pink and red with yellow stamens. Locals call them the “winter rose”.

A trip to the Carolinas easily develops into a voyage of new discoveries, different cultures and easy friendships. The great divide in the land, at this time of the health care debate, is the ideological question: “Should those better off accept to be taxed more to extend health care to the less fortunate?” The question has polarized the people of this nation whether they understand the principles of the debate or not.

The “Yes” group has consolidated behind the Democratic Party’s mantra: one must look after one’s fellow man; new rules spreading health care over a greater proportion of the population will lower individual insurance costs; and,

reduced long term costs to government will save the nation from bankruptcy.

The “No” group has given vociferous voice to the Republican Party: our rights are being trampled upon, as individuals should have freedom of choice; and, we are not in agreement with increased taxation for the middle and upper classes to pay for the indigent, the cultural malingerers (read racial) and the illegal immigrants. A local bumper sticker says it all: “I will keep my Freedoms, my Guns, and my Money. You can have the change.”

It is easy to make friends here during an extended stay. However, our church friends are generally Democrats while our activities friends are mostly Republicans. So, inevitably, the question arises: “What do you think of our Medicare debate?” The deflective response, “Well, I’m a guest in your country and it would not be polite for me to comment”, is quickly pushed aside. The more pointed question, “How do you like the Medicare system in Canada?” is quickly substituted. This question is loaded with examples of queue jumpers who went to the U.S. for medical interventions.

Our response has been to say that we are satisfied with our system. We have not experienced unusual or life threatening delays and hospital costs to us were non-existent. We cited our personal hospital experiences over the last

ten years to back up our views. Democrats were in awe that there should be such a utopian system. Republicans were more awe struck with disbelief that our views and experiences should be at such odds with the Limbaugh-Fox hype.

We soon found, when we sat together at social functions with other wintering Canadians, that we would whisper our views and limit our comments on the debate for fear of being overheard and giving offense. To a person, we could not understand the resistance to the reform bill, and our stories may not have changed any minds. It is an American struggle; and, our taking a position on a political issue which we cannot influence is not worth risking the good friendships on either side of the debate.

When I started this article, I thought of writing about a car ride to Charlotte, North Carolina, with two locals I hardly knew. I now realize that, that which has been foremost in my mind, is the health care debate. My two local friends got lost on the way to Charlotte. They had neither a map nor a GPS to guide them. The trip took six hours rather than the 3 1/2 hours it should have taken to get there. Their story is a microcosm of the health care ride the national political parties are taking us on today.

On the way to Charlotte, I was shown various agricultural areas, some in top economic form and some well into decline. We travelled through towns still devastated from Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and, in contrast, other areas of renewed economic investment. My hosts were most cordial. We talked at length about 'guy things' and, on the way home, they treated me to a southern style pork barbecue, which will remain in my memory forever as the 'rose in the wintertime' after a long trying day.

Similarly, the two sides of the health care issue do not seem to have adequate tools to guide them on their ride. As they consider wealth vs. need, the debate will drag on much longer than necessary. I have been privileged to share both these rides and to come to 'know their minds'. I wish the ordinary people of this country well as they search for truth. May they eventually draw their figurative camellia, 'the winter rose', out of the bushes, even if it should be adapted from foreign stock.

John van Abbema

\* Opening verse adapted from the UU Hymn, #346, "Come Sing a Song With Me".



## NotAble Acts Playwriting Contest Province-Wide Playwriting Competition

The NotAble Acts Theatre Company is searching for great plays by New Brunswick writers for its annual province-

wide Playwriting Competition. Contest winners will have their work featured as part of the 2010 NotAble Acts Summer Theatre Festival, to be held in Fredericton, July 21 to August 1.

This year, playwrights are invited to submit work in 2 categories: Taking it to the Street (short plays) and Acting Out (one acts).

In addition to having their work produced at the festival, all winning playwrights will receive a prize of \$125 for Taking it to the Street and \$300 for Acting Out.

Copies of the contest rules and regulations are available at [www.nbacts.com](http://www.nbacts.com). Questions about the contest or this year's festival can be directed to [nbacts@umb.ca](mailto:nbacts@umb.ca) or (506) 458-7406. The deadline for contest entries is April 23, 2010.



## Wanted – Filing Cabinet

Wanted, small, two-drawer second-hand filing cabinet, with hanging files, for the Fredericton Shambhala Buddhist Center, contact Lorna Drew, at 457-2150, email [ldrew@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:ldrew@nbnet.nb.ca)

Cheers, Lorna



## Spring Fling Art and Craft Sale

Our third annual Art and Craft Sale will be held on Friday, April 23 from 12:00 - 7:00 pm and Saturday, April 24 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton. This event is held as a fund-raiser for our Fellowship as well as an opportunity to raise awareness of the Unitarian Fellowship in the community. We hope every member of our Fellowship will come to the sale and bring a friend in support of this venture. What a success it can be if every member brings just one guest!



To date the following artisans have agreed to exhibit:

1. Pat Kennedy with original oil paintings;
2. Lynda Rae Burke with water colours, both paintings and note cards;

3. Maboube Maher-Hielscher painting with wax, pastel, water colours;
4. Carole Forbes with ink paintings, and ink kits and lessons;
5. Mani Irani, "Mani's Treasure Chest", African imports, jewelry, bags, boxes, dresses;
6. Don MacPherson a wood worker with end tables, shelves & small utility pieces;
7. Joanne Keezer "Jewels by Joanne" with Swarovski crystals, pearls, etc with sterling silver;
8. Janet Crawford "Lightcatcher Photography" photo cards and canvas prints;
9. Kathy Thornhill "Sparrowhawk Photography" perpetual day planner featuring wildflowers of Nunavut, cards, book marks, coasters;
10. Amber Cober "Cober Glass" kiln fired, hand crafted glass works;
11. Joan Shaw "Garden Creek Pottery" wheel thrown stoneware pottery and porcelain;
12. Isabelle Pineau "An Oddity or Two" (Bedford NS) mixed media assemblages and collages;
13. Sandie Breau with lovely crocheted hats, sneakers, sandals, and baby sets;
14. Ali Johnson "Knitting Nymph" original hand knits and designs. Custom orders available.
15. Judith Sherry hand sewn rag quilts, tote bags, baby quilts, seniors bibs, place-mats, etc.
16. Hilda MacPherson homemade jams, jellies, and baked goods.

There are various parts of this event where your help will be appreciated

We have room for 20 vendors and anyone interested in renting a table should contact Nancy Beltrandi by email [beltrand@rogers.com](mailto:beltrand@rogers.com) or phone: 459-8004

We need volunteers to make sandwiches, coffee and muffins for vendors and to help in the kitchen on sale days. Contact Betty Lou Daye by email: [daye@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:daye@nb.sympatico.ca) phone 357-8256 or Glenna Hanley by email [ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca) or phone 472-8431

We need volunteers to help set up Thursday and tear down on Saturday, and be on-call should an emergency arise at the Fellowship. We will also need several volunteers to oversee the parking. Interested volunteers contact Nancy Bel-

trandi by email [beltrand@rogers.com](mailto:beltrand@rogers.com) phone 459-8004 or Glenna Hanley by email [ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca) phone 472-8431

There will be a table for quality used articles, baked goods, pickles, for sale to buyers contributed by Fellowship members.

To help with the sale of these table items or to contribute, contact Carol Ann Hanley by email: [info@anncarol.ca](mailto:info@anncarol.ca) or by phone: 459-1077.

Please spread the word! If you have contacts for publicity, contact Janet Crawford by email: [janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca) or phone: 454-0441.



## Celebration of Faith in Diversity

The public is invited to attend a unique **Celebration of Faith in Diversity** to take place **Thursday, April 8th, 2010** in the **Kinsella Auditorium, McCain Hall** from 8:45 to 5.

(The lieutenant governor, the premier, the mayor, and the campus have been invited. Two bus-loads of high school students from Miramichi are coming. The Unitarians Fellowship will be represented, and so are you invited to this day of celebration. Come with a friend, and come early.)

Students from the Religious Studies department at St. Thomas University together with Fredericton's Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, First Nations, Islamic, Jewish, Hindu, Unitarian and Quaker communities will be gathering to present a series of morning talks from their lived experiences of faith in Fredericton, a pot-luck lunch, and an afternoon of celebrations, including prayer, music and dance. The closing ceremony will begin at 4:45 pm.

This is the first time Fredericton's faith communities have had such an opportunity to meet with each other and share a common goal: the celebration of faith in its diversity. Dr. Alexandra Bain says her students have been working very hard to make this event a success, and they have met with overwhelming support from Fredericton's faith communities.

"The students have visited Fredericton's churches, temples, mosques, synagogues, meditation halls and family homes in an effort to get to know the host communities and learn how they may be best served." "We hope that this event will continue annually and serve as a base from which Fredericton's faith communities can learn about and from each other, identify common goals and needs, and articulate those goals and needs to the larger public, including government policy makers, educators, and others.

Students, members of faith communities and the general public are invited to attend.

For further information, please contact: Dr. Alexandra Bain at 452-0436.



## Yom HaShoah

The 11th of April this year (27 Nisan in the Jewish calendar) is Yom HaShoah or Holocaust Remembrance Day. This day is observed in commemoration of the approximately six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust by Nazi Germany and its accessories against the Jewish citizens of the occupied European countries.



## Note from Linda Thomson

**Where do we come from, What are we, where are we going?**



The lines from the song in the UUA's hymn book, "Singing the Journey", are simple yet they ask fundamental questions we'd be wise to spend some time thinking about. It is easy in the busyness of our personal, congregational and associational lives to continue along the path we find ourselves on, without questioning if the path is suited to us, or is the one we need to be on. Too often, we find ourselves trundling along a path without asking ourselves if it was ever the right one. Small questions! Big impact!

Until we know if the story of our past, "where do we come from", is the

same as the one we tell ourselves, we may not really understand the patterns we're not aware of that continue to influence us. Often congregations bump into resistance and leaders become frustrated, not understanding the reasons for it, because they don't know the story of the congregation's past; a story that continues to influence patterns of influence and relationships. Sometimes an avoidance of conflict is rooted in a nearly forgotten but traumatic congregational split. An understanding of our past helps us understand ourselves better and leads to greater congregational awareness, "what are we", which in turn helps us better understand the strengths we can bring to the work that is needed for congregational vitality. Similarly we'll be better able to understand where our congregational weaknesses are. Self-knowledge based on a clear understanding of our history is essential if we are to make changes that challenge the status quo. Without that self-knowledge, people may wonder why intensified efforts fail to bring the desired results. Finally, a congregation has to have a clearly articulated and commonly understood vision for itself, if it wants to re-imagine its

future. Failing to do the work, failing to have hard and sometimes difficult conversations about "where are we going" can lead to crossed communication, cross purposes and cross members and leaders. Spending time in small group discussions and in larger informal discussions about shared dreams will help the congregation develop plans to help realize those dreams. This is tough and important work. It is hard, particularly in our smaller congregations to face the reality that not all members are going to like the direction that the majority identify. Sometimes vocal and unhappy members cause others to question themselves and to apply the brakes to the work that the larger group has determined they will undertake. Clarity of vision, leaders who are able to articulate goals and who can help encourage and reassure others and a strong sense of values and purpose are key to a congregation's ability to move forward. Knowing why we are going in a particular direction, knowing who we intend to serve and knowing how we believe we can contribute to the work of the world add to a congregations ability to present a strong and compelling vision to itself, and furthers its ability to muster and keep the energy needed for the journey. Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? Small questions! Big impact!

In faith and with affection,

Linda Thomson

Director of Congregational Services



## The Top 10 Reasons to Send Your Kid to Unicamp



Has your child experienced the joys of Unicamp? If not, consider sending him or her this summer. You'll be helping create wonderful memories that will last a lifetime!

Need convincing? Here are 10 great reasons to send your kids to Unicamp.

1. The most amazing staff:
2. The freedom to play:
3. Great Unicamp traditions:
4. The opportunity to make new friends:
5. A UU values-based program:
6. They may be inspired to be a camp leader someday:
7. Great themes this summer:
8. Give your child the gift of independence:
9. Tell others about Unicamp and earn a discount:
10. Give yourself a break!

For more information visit our website - [unicampofontario.ca](http://unicampofontario.ca) To register - [admin@unicampofontario.ca](mailto:admin@unicampofontario.ca) or 519-822-6353.



## Ada Lovelace Day

March 24th was declared Ada Lovelace Day and I apologize for not having this in the March newsletter.

Ada Lovelace, or more precisely, Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace was the daughter of poet Lord Byron and Annabella Millbank. An only child, Ada Lovelace was nine years old when her famous father died. A regular at Court Ada acquired the name Lovelace with her 1835 marriage to William King, who would become 1st Earl of Lovelace. The couple settled in Surrey with Lovelace having their children.



Ada Lovelace had known Charles Babbage for years, since she was only 17 years old and started corresponding with the Babbage on science and mathematics. But Lovelace only started working with him after her marriage, translating and documenting work for his analytical engine. Charles Babbage's apparently referred to her as The Enchantress of Numbers but she did not receive much formal credit for her work on Babbage's project.

The analytical engine was a stored program computer designed using only mechanical components. The technology of the day was not up to building the machine and it was not until the end of the 20th century that a working prototype was built to prove the concept. While Babbage was the hardware engineer, Lovelace was the software engineer and designed programs that would have given life to the mechanical monster. An analysis of her code in the issue of Scientific American which featured an article on the analytical engine indicated that there were a couple of software bugs, but considering that she never had a chance to actually run the programs on a working system, the feat was nothing short of amazing.



## Challenge of Change

Each year, the UU Ministers' Association asks one of its members to deliver a lecture at the annual gathering. The Berry Street lecture has often provided our larger movement with challenging ideas that help us all explore questions that affect our identity and future. The 2009 lecture, by Rev. Dr. Paul Rasor, was no exception. It and subse-

quent articles and discussion have engaged important questions about how our history and dominant culture affect our ability to respond adequately to a changing society. Demographically, North America is changing, and greater ethnic, racial and cultural diversity is the norm. Yet, UU congregations have, in large part, failed to attract a membership that reflects that diversity. A recent UU World article reporting on Rasor's work noted, "Unitarian Universalism has its own cultural tradition, one that is rooted in European-American cultural norms and ways of being in the world. This normative lens is often invisible to those of us who look through it, but it is all too visible to those who view the world through different cultural lenses... We cannot become a multicultural faith if we -subconsciously or otherwise- continue to treat a particular monocultural lens as normative." Essentially what is being argued is; until those of use with ethnic, racial and cultural backgrounds that are a fit' with the practices of most UU congregations, challenge ourselves to understand and address the fact that some of how we are' in congregational life and worship is a barrier to others, we will continue to erect barriers to their full engagement. To continue as if those barriers are not real is to miss the opportunity to engage more fully in the changing world around us. "It is widely accepted among scholars that religious liberalism's central defining characteristic is its posture of intentional engagement with modern culture. Liberal theology starts with the premise that religion should be oriented toward the present, taking fully into account modern knowledge and experience." Intellectually, we know that we must be engaged. Reason and analysis are some of what we do best! Paradoxically though, our reason and analysis are counted in the list of practices that can be perceived as barriers by those from cultures that expect religion to engage the heart and the spirit as well as the head.

I think the article in UU World is a very useful jumping-off point for some useful conversations and I commend it too you. Engaging in questions that challenge us to be open to new and different possibilities is good and important work and might be ideal for congregational conversations.

You can find the article at:

<http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/158175.shtml?f>



## Green Sanctuary Update

The Green Sanctuary program was developed for use in Unitarian Universalist congregations so that they and their congregants had a framework that they could use, on a voluntary basis, to proclaim and live out their commitment to the Earth.



The Green Sanctuary Program, originally nurtured and

managed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, was designed to give roots and wings to the vision that, together, we can create a world in which all people make reverence, gratitude, and care for the living Earth that is central to our lives.

Many Canadian congregations have already certified as Green Sanctuaries and others are working on the program. With the shift to program management to the UUA there has been some confusion about how this US decision affected Canadian congregations. CUC staff and key volunteers have been in conversation with the UUA and can report that, at this point, Canadian congregations can continue to work with the UUA as they move through the certification process. However, in time, the CUC will be taking on this responsibility for our congregations. Within the next few months we'll begin a consideration of how the program and certification requirements may change in the Canadian context. We'll need to identify a group of people who are interested in working with staff to review the existing program and consider needed modifications. Are you interested in being part of this team? If so, please contact Jennifer Dickson, CUC Executive Director (jennifer@cuc.ca), listing your previous involvement with the program and some basic information about your motivation for taking on this work.

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## Church of the Larger Fellowship

The Church of the Larger Fellowship offers online UU courses. Some courses are free and some cost \$40. The courses are available to anyone! Unitarian Universalism is available 24/7.




Full details and a complete calendar at <http://clf.uua.org/learn/>

**Welcome In:** *An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism and the Church of the Larger Fellowship*

Welcome to this program for new Unitarian Universalists. You can move through the sessions at your own pace.

This online class is intended for people who would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, the CLF, and how their own spiritual journey might connect with our organization and faith tradition. For each session there are readings, as well as a variety of other resources such as links to relevant web sites. Once you have explored the readings and resources you will be able to answer the questions which will guide our discussion. Free!

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## A Blessed Easter

To our Christian friends, a blessed and Holy Easter.

This space wants your material!